

Man for trial over park lavatory death

A MAN charged with the murder of a man in Birdwood Park lavatory was committed in Newcastle Court yesterday for trial in the Newcastle Supreme Court.

Jeffrey Miller, 22, prison inmate, was charged with the murder of Richard Slater, 69, in Newcastle on December 22, 1980.

The court was told that a man had found a bleeding man on the lavatory floor when he went to use the Birdwood Park facility on December 19, 1980.

Mr Slater, a pensioner, had died in hospital three days later.

A witness alleged at a committal hearing yesterday that Mr Miller had forced him up against a car in Wallsend.

Mr Miller had then threatened the witness and had allegedly told him that he would not want to open his mouth or he would end up 'like that guy in the toilet'.

The court was told that the witness was now serving a seven-year sentence for 132 offences,

committed while he was a juvenile, with a two-year non-parole period.

Mr P. Callaghan, for Mr Miller, said all evidence of independent witnesses came down to circumstantial evidence.

Mr Meehan, SM, said he had noticed discrepancies in some of the matters but he was satisfied that the matter ought to go for trial.

Mr Miller was remanded in custody.